

## Selections: January 2021



### Clisquot Book Club

#### January 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Afterlife</b>	Julia Alvarez	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Breakfast at Honey Creek Café</b>	Jodi Thomas	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Invisible Girl</b>	Lisa Jewell	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Miss Benson's Beetle</b>	Rachel Joyce	Sandra	Fiction
<b>On the Corner of Hope and Main</b>	Beverly Jenkins	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Return to Virgin River</b>	Robyn Carr	Sandra	Romance
<b>Snapped</b>	Alexa Martin	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Archer</b>	Paulo Coelho	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Mystery of Mrs. Christie</b>	Marie Benedict	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing</b>	Jacqueline Winspear	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Ties That Tether</b>	Jane Igharo	Sandra	Fiction
<b>This Just Speaks to Me</b>	Hoda Kotb	Sandra	Nonfiction

#### **Breakfast at Honey Creek Cafe** by Jodi Thomas

Jodi Thomas knows how to write about small town life in a way that makes you want to live there. Honey Creek has an assorted cast of characters to root for: the mayor, the visiting preacher, the state trooper, and the town drunk. Heart-warming slice of life novel.

#### **Invisible Girl** by Lisa Jewell

Dark and disturbing psychological suspense with a satisfying ending.

#### **Miss Benson's Beetle** by Rachel Joyce

Charming story of two misfits running away from their past who have set off on a seemingly impossible mission to find a rare beetle. What makes this novel work is that it is a book full of contradictions; as though the reader was on an expedition and discovers the meaning of friendship at the end. Loved it!

#### **On the Corner of Hope and Main** by Beverly Jenkins

I love returning to the town of Henry Adams-- it's like catching up with old friends and meeting new ones along the way, and there's always Cletus, who's up to no good. This is the tenth book

in the series and you must read them in order or it won't make any sense. The first book is **Bring on the Blessings**.

**Snapped** by Alexa Martin

The latest in the playback romance series is both timely and on-point. I loved it!

**The Mystery of Mrs. Christie** by Marie Benedict

Wonderful historical fiction about the eleven day disappearance of Agatha Christie.


**Ties That Tether** by Jane Igharo

Started just like this: story story exclamation point! This book spoke to me on so many levels. It is a story that many immigrants and first generation children can relate to. This beautiful tale of love, identity, and culture is beautifully told as we embark on Azere's journey of self-discovery and love.

**This Just Speaks to Me** by Hoba Kotb

An inspirational daily dose of words and quotes to live life intentionally.

## Selections: February 2021



### Clicquot Book Club

#### February 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Black Buck</b>	Mateo Askaripout	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Cleo McDougal Regrets Nothing</b>	Allison Winn Scotch	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Dolly Parton: Song Teller</b>	Dolly Parton	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>His Only Wife</b>	Peace Adzo Medie	Sandra	Fiction
<b>How to Fail at Flirting</b>	Denise Williams	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Little Book of Hygge (pronounced Hoo-Ga)</b>	Meik Wiking	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>The Love Story of Missy Carmichael</b>	Beth Morrey	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Orphan Collector</b>	Ellen Marie Wiseman	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Thursday Murder Club</b>	Richard Osman	Sandra	Mystery
<b>This Time Next Year</b>	Sophie Cousens	Sandra	Fiction
<b>White Ivy</b>	Susie Yang	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Henna Artist</b>	Alka Joshi	Sandra	Historical Fiction

**Cleo McDougal Regrets Nothing** by Allison Winn Scotch

Wonderful tale of a life of regrets and the consequences of actions.

**His Only Wife** by Peace Adzo Medie

A stunning debut novel. Afi marries her husband Eli in absentia in Ghana. The novelist deftly crafts her story as a young newlywed tries to please her absent husband while growing into her own person. I loved watching her journey.

**The Love Story of Missy Carmichael** by Beth Morrey

Charming story of 79 year old curmudgeon-y Missy Carmichael rattling around her house after her husband is gone. A chance meeting has her gradually opening up to a motley crew of strangers and a dog. This story starts out chilly and ends up warming your heart.

**The Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman

This is a delightful romp of septuagenarians and octogenarians who live on a senior estate. They have to solve a cold case for their club when a murder happens. There were plenty of red herrings and enough characters that it was sometimes confusing, but regardless it was great fun!


**This Time Next Year** by Sophie Cousens

Feel good story to start the year. What happens when two people are born on New Year's day, both who feel like they're missing something. A great take on "the grass is always greener"-- I loved it!

**The Henna Artist** by Alka Joshi

Beautiful story of survival in 1950s India as an impoverished young woman escapes her abusive husband. She makes her way into the edges of Indian society as a henna artist. At times heartbreaking, but ultimately triumphant as the main character comes into her own power.

## Selections: March 2021



**Clickquot Book Club**  
**March 2021 Selections**

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Dear Emmie Blue</b>	Lia Louis	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Dear God</b>	Bunmi Laditan	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House</b>	Cherie Jones	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Our Darkest Night</b>	Jennifer Robson	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Forever Girl</b>	Jill Shalvis	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Lost Husband</b>	Katherine Center	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Push</b>	Ashley Audrain	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Wife Upstairs</b>	Rachel Hawkins	Sandra	Mystery
<b>This is Your Time</b>	Ruby Bridges	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>The Switch</b>	Beth O'Leary	Sandra	Fiction

### **Our Darkest Night** by Jennifer Robson

This beautifully written WW2 story of a Jewish girl who must flee to the Italian countryside with a family friend destined for priesthood. Away from everything and everyone she's known, she grows into her own during the war. I loved it.

### **The Push** by Ashley Audrain

Wow! This book had me on the edge of my seat. The last line of the book says it all.

### **The Wife Upstairs** by Rachel Hawkins

Fun retelling of Jane Eyre with twisty suspense thrown in.


### **This is your Time** by Ruby Bridges

Beautiful. Ruby Bridges recounts her story as a six year old girl in the desegregation of American schools. She entwines her story with the quest for racial justice in today's America. A must read for both children and adults.

### **The Switch** by Beth O'Leary

Delightful tale of a 79 year old lady who switches places with her granddaughter. The grandmother moves to London and the granddaughter moves to the English countryside. A heartwarming tale.

## Selections: April 2021



**Clicquot Book Club**  
April 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>First Come Like</b>	Alisha Rai	Sandra	Romance
<b>Judge's Girls</b>	Sharina Harris	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Prodigal Son</b>	Gregg Hurwitz	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Diplomat's Wife</b>	Pam Jenoff	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Four Winds</b>	Kristin Hannah	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Last Garden in England</b>	Julia Kelly	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Survivors</b>	Jane Harper	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Wrong Family</b>	Taryn Fisher	Sandra	Mystery
<b>When Harry Met Minnie</b>	Martha Teichner	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>The Lost Manuscript</b>	Cathy Bonidan	Sandra	Fiction

### **First Comes Like** by Alisha Rai

Charming romance. This book makes me smile. I love the family reactions to perceived impropriety. My favorite line: "It looks like you were kissing a man at a bar,' her mother said it with all the scandalousness of someone else saying 'It looks like you're murdering a man at a murder house.'" Loved it!

### **Prodigal Son** by Gregg Hurwitz

I loved this series! The latest Orphan X novel is jam-packed with espionage, thrills, and heart. I love this one because Evans' humanity peeks through and Joey is back. Such a fun read!

### **The Last Garden in England** by Julia Kelly

Sweeping novel set in three time periods: 1907, the 1940s, and 2021. Beautifully written, it depicts the lives of the women at an English manor house. Their stories are told through the creation and restoration of the garden--I loved it!

### **The Diplomat's Wife** by Pam Jenoff


This story begins at the end of WWII and the start of its aftermath. I didn't realize this book was a sequel to "the Kommandant's Girl" (which I did not read)-- I read it as a stand-alone and I enjoyed it.

### **The Lost manuscript** by Cathy Bonidan



This is a gorgeous novel. This story is meant for lovers of the written word. Told in a series of letters it follows a lost manuscript and how the words touch each person who reads it. This was so breathtaking I read it in one sitting.

## Selections: May 2021



### Clicquot Book Club

#### May 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Finlay Donovan is Killing It</b>	Elle Cosimand	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Memorial Drive</b>	Natasha Trethewey	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Pretty Little Wife</b>	Darby Kane	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Sparks Like Stars</b>	Nadia Hashimi	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Family Ship</b>	Sonja Yoerg	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Hill We Climb</b>	Amanda Gorman	Sandra	Poetry
<b>The Lost Apothecary</b>	Sarah Penner	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Right Swipe</b>	Alisha Rai	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Secret Stealers</b>	Jane Healey	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>You'll Never Believed What Happened to Lacey</b>	Amber Ruffin & Lacey Lam	Sandra	Nonfiction

### **Finlay Donovan is Killing it** by Elle Cosimand

Quirky and Fun, I loved the premise of this book; a writer, Finley, stumbling her way into solving a murder. She even has a sidekick "Viro". At times it reminded me of Lucy and Ethel. The whole time I was rooting for Finley--this book made me smile.

### **Pretty Little Wife** by Darby Kane

Delightful twisty suspense. I loved the twists and the outcome!

### **Sparks Like Stars** by Nadia Hashimi

Breathtaking novel, Hashimi's prose is pure gold. The story centers on a young Afghani girl whose family is massacred in the 70s. The book follows her harrowing journey of escape with the American woman who saved her. A must-read; I loved this book.

### **The Hill we Climb** by Amanda Gorman

Wonderful keepsake edition of the inaugural poem-- great gift book!

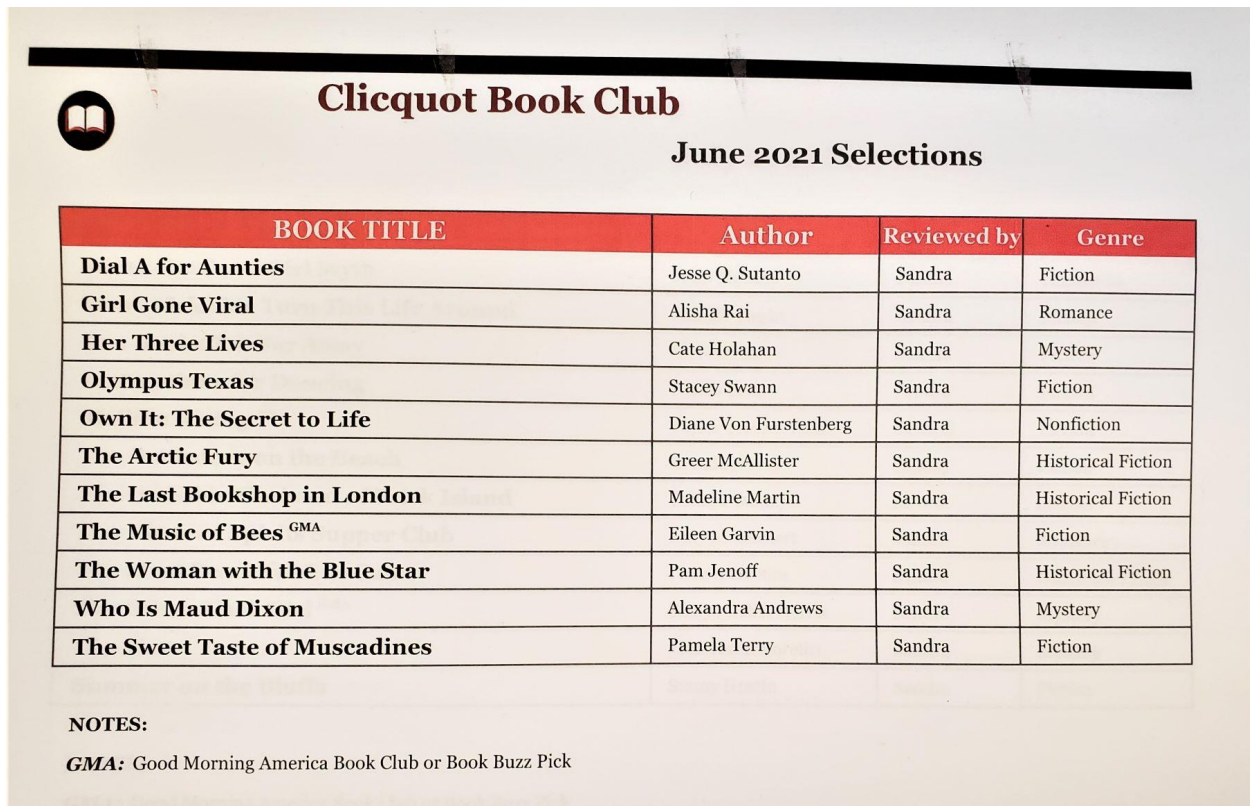
### **The Lost Apothecary** by Sarah Penner

Genius story about a woman in the 1700s who "assisted" women who needed to get rid of philandering, abusing, pedophilic, or mean men in their lives. It all changes when one of the "assists" goes awry. This lot intertwines with a modern-day twist-- I loved it!

### **You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey** by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar

Hilarious true stories of racism. Some of the stories are familiar. Every black person has a story of the crazy sh\*t that white people say to their faces; this book puts it all out there. Truth telling with a dose of humor-- a must read!

## **Selections: June 2021**



The image shows a poster for the Clickquot Book Club. At the top left is a circular logo with an open book. The title "Clickquot Book Club" is in a large, dark red serif font. Below it, "June 2021 Selections" is written in a smaller, black sans-serif font. The main part of the poster is a table with four columns: "BOOK TITLE", "Author", "Reviewed by", and "Genre". The table lists ten books. Below the table, there is a "NOTES:" section with a definition for "GMA": "Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick".

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Dial A for Aunties</b>	Jesse Q. Sutanto	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Girl Gone Viral</b>	Alisha Rai	Sandra	Romance
<b>Her Three Lives</b>	Cate Holahan	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Olympus Texas</b>	Stacey Swann	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Own It: The Secret to Life</b>	Diane Von Furstenberg	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>The Arctic Fury</b>	Greer McAllister	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Last Bookshop in London</b>	Madeline Martin	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Music of Bees</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Eileen Garvin	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Woman with the Blue Star</b>	Pam Jenoff	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>Who Is Maud Dixon</b>	Alexandra Andrews	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Sweet Taste of Muscadines</b>	Pamela Terry	Sandra	Fiction

**NOTES:**  
**GMA:** Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

### **Dial A for Aunties** by Jesse Q. Sutanto

Laugh-out-loud story about a woman who goes on a blind date gone bad. This leads to a dead body and four interfering Aunties who are just trying to "help", creating the most hilarious consequences. Throw in a romance with an ex-boyfriend and this book is everything you want from a summer read.

**Her Three Lives** by Cate Holahan

This book starts off with a bang and is a roller coaster of a ride. Love, love, LOVE the patois sayings from the mother (harbinger of things to come) and that was an added bonus for me. Great twist, great read.

**The Last Bookshop in London** by Madeline Martin

Wonderful WWII book. Loved how books and the magic of reading helped Grace live and survive the war. Some readers may feel that parts of the war were glossed over, and perhaps that was why I loved it. It was all about the reading.

**The Music of Bees** by Eileen Garvin

Charming story of a lonely widow who, by chance, ends up inviting two other lost souls to work on her farm. Together they grow, taking care of the bees and each other. Heartwarming and uplifting tale, it was the bee's knees.

**The Woman with the Blue Star** by Pam Jenoff


Gripping story of survival and compassion set in WWII. I appreciated the friendship of the two women and how it shaped their destiny.

**The Sweet Taste of Muscadines** by Pamela Terry

A gorgeous novel. A woman comes home after her mother is found dead in their family house. This story is elegantly written. The honesty of breadth and discovery made this book a delight to read.



## Selections: July 2021



### Cliequot Book Club

#### July 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Break the Good Girl Myth</b>	Majo Molfino	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Don't Make Me Turn This Life Around</b>	Camille Pagán	Sandra	Fiction
<b>In a Book Club Far Away</b>	Tif Marcelo	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Instructions for Dancing</b>	Nicola Yoon	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Malibu Rising</b> <sup>RWJ</sup>	Taylor Jenkins Reid	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Bookstore on the Beach</b>	Brenda Novak	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Invisible Husband of Frick Island</b>	Colleen Oakley	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Kindred Spirits Supper Club</b>	Amy E. Reichert	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Most Beautiful Girl Cuba</b>	Chanel Cleeton	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Other Black Girl</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Zakiya Dalila Harris	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Plot</b>	Jean Hanff Korelitz	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Summer on the Bluffs</b>	Sunny Hostin	Sandra	Fiction

**NOTES:**  
**GMA:** Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick  
**RWJ:** Read With Jenna Book Club

### **Don't Make me Turn this Life Around** by Camille Pagan

Camille Pagan never disappoints. She crafts stories with the most believable and imperfect heroines as she crafts a course through life. In her newest novel Libby comes to grips with surviving melanoma while dealing with motherhood and marital insecurity. Libby's answer: a family trip- and that's when the novel really takes flight!

### **In a Book Club Far Away** by Tif Marcelo

A heartwarming book about military wives that bond over a book club. Filled with the messiness of real life, this book is an ode to the power of friendship.

### **Instructions for Dancing** by Nicola Yoone

To quote the title of Yoone's previous book, this one was "Everything, EVERYTHING". I adore Yoone's writing style; I'm always rooting for her characters 100%, and sigh when I get to the last page. It was enchanting, heartbreaking, and hopeful.

### **Malibu Rising** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

A hard-edged story of 80's Hollywood and one Bacchanal party that is out of control. At the end of this novel, everything is up in flames. Reid writes these gripping Hollywood stories that are so over-the-top and dramatic they feel so real.

**The Invisible Husband of Frick Island** by Coleen Oakley

A charming book that gave me all the feels. A grieving widow continues to talk and act as though her husband were still living. The whole town cooperates to help her in her time of grief. This book is wildly imaginative with a positive message.

**The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba** by Chanel Cleeton

Historical fiction about Cuba's Evangelina Cisneros and two other revolutionary women during the Cuban War for Independence from Spain. Her story is entwined with the Americans; Hearst and Pulitzer newsmen trying to garner "the Scoop", and Grace who manages to speak for Cuban women in a way the men could not.

**The Other Black Girl** by Zakiya Dalila Harris

Interesting take on what it means to be the ONLY Black female at a publishing house and what happens when another Black woman appears. The plot twists were at times bizarre. However, the book explores the "Only" syndrome, code switching, microaggressions, and more.

**The Plot** by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Did he or didn't he steal the plot to a novel that made a writer famous? That's the premise to this twisty suspense novel. The beginning of the book drags as it works to establish the main character as a literary writer and then it picks up, moving along like a speeding train. I guessed the twist, and I'm still trying to decide whether or not that was intentional by the author: that the reader is more clued in than the protagonist. Still, it's a really good read.

**Summer on the Bluffs** by Sunny Hostin

A perfect summer read. Totally indulgent, I devoured it in a day. This book follows the Black elite on Martha's vineyard. Three women brought together by their godmother, sprinkle in secrets, decadent lifestyles and you have one hell of a ride. I loved it!

## Selections: August 2021

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>A Lowcountry Bride</b>	Preslaysa Williams	Sandra	Romance
<b>Ace of Spades</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Faridah Abiké-Iyimidé	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Blush</b>	Jamie Brenner	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Golden Girl</b>	Elin Hilderbrand	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Life's Too Short</b>	Abby Jimenez	Sandra	Romance
<b>Local Woman Missing</b>	Mary Kubica	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Pack Up The Moon</b>	Kristan Higgins	Sandra	Fiction
<b>That Sounds Fun</b>	Annie F. Downs	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>The Break-Up Book Club</b>	Wendy Was	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Guncle</b>	Steven Rowley	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Last Thing He Told Me</b> <sup>RBC</sup>	Laura Dave	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Secret Keeper of Jaipur</b>	Alka Joshi	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Three Mrs. Wrights</b>	Linda Keir	Sandra	Mystery

**NOTES:**  
**GMA:** Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick  
**RBC:** Reese's Book Club

### **A Lowcountry Bride** by Preslaysa Williams

I love the story. This was a charming romance with great characters. This story touched me because the main character Maya is a bridal gown designer following in the footsteps of her mother. It made me nostalgic in a good way, as my mother and *tia* were seamstresses. My mother's specialty was hand beading on wedding gowns, so it made me really appreciate this book. I'm looking forward to reading more of her works.

### **Ace of Spades** by Faridah Abike-Iyimide

Twisty mystery at an elite prep school. Loved that the author doesn't shy away from racism, classism, or homophobia, and the impact of the education of Black students. Loved it.

### **Blush** by Jamie Brenner

This book was so much fun. It brought together the love of a good book, men taking women for granted, and the power of women to persevere and succeed through it all. I was hooked on the premise that the matriarch used to belong to a "scandalous" or "trashy" book club back in the day that read Jackie Collins, Judith Krantz and the like. I remember those books fondly, and that

made this story even more enjoyable. I loved the aspect of pairing wine and cheese with the books. This book is pure summer bliss.

**Local Woman Missing** by Mary Kubica

Twisty page turner. A cold case where three women disappear and only one comes back eleven years later. Brilliant!

**Pack Up the Moon** by Kristan Higgins

This is a beautiful story of love, loss, and grief. Anyone who has lost a loved one will relate to many facets of love shown between Josh and Lauren. It is a very emotional book and might trigger some readers, but any tears shed will be worth it.

**The Break-Up Book Club** by Wendy Was

Charming story of four women who bond with the turmoil in their lives and their love of books. I really loved that this fictional book club discussed current books.

**The Guncle** by Steven Rowley

Everybody needs a guncle! I adored this book. At times I laughed out loud and at other times it brought me to tears. This is a book to make you feel good and love what's right in the world.


**The Last Thing he Told Me** by Laura Dave

Fast-paced suspense of a wife trying to protect her step-daughter when her husband disappears under mysterious and nefarious circumstances.

**The Three Mrs. Wrights** by Linda Keir

Bloody brilliant! Three intelligent women plus one philandering, compulsive liar of a man equals the sweetness of revenge. Loved it!

## Selections: September 2021



### Clicquot Book Club

#### September 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Arsenic and Adobo</b>	Mia P. Manasala	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Dr. Disaster's Guide to Surviving Everything</b>	John E. Torres	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Family for Beginners</b>	Sarah Morgan	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Isn't It Bromantic</b>	Lyssa Kay Adams	Sandra	Romance
<b>Seven Perfect Things</b>	Catherine Ryan Hyde	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Sisters in Arms</b>	Kaia Alderson	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Final Revival of Opal &amp; Nev</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Dawnie Walton	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Personal Librarian</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Scandal</b>	Nicola Marsh	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Three Words for Goodbye</b>	Hazel Gaynor & Heather Wheeler	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>Where the Grass is Green and the Girls are Pretty</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Lauren Weisberger	Sandra	Fiction
<b>While We Were Dating</b>	Jasmine Guillory	Sandra	Romance
<b>Seven Days in June</b> <sup>RBC</sup>	Tia Williams	Sandra	Fiction

NOTES:  
**RBC:** Reese's Book Club  
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### **Arsenic and Adobo** by Mia P. Mansala

Charming cozy mystery filled with a lovable heroine, aunties, and a great cast of Filipino characters. The Filipino dishes described throughout the book made my mouth water. Definitely planning on making some of the desserts-- I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

### **Family for Beginners** by Sarah Morgan

Heartwarming story of a young woman who longs for a family and a widower with two children mourning for their mother. The ending brought tears to my eyes.

### **Isn't it Bromantic** by Lyssa Kay Adams

I'm so glad Vlad's story was finally told. This book is funny, sweet, and charming. It's everything I've come to expect and enjoy from this series. I loved it.

### **Seven Perfect Things** by Catherine Ryan Hyde



This warm and fuzzy book is perfect to make you remember that there's goodness in the world. Seven puppies rescued by a thirteen year-old girl are the catalyst for this novel. The dogs change her life, her abused mother's life, and the kind stranger who helps them.

**Sisters in Arms** by Kaia Alderson

Finally. A book about World War II that highlights the contributions of Black women. This book is based on a true story of the 6888 central-postal battalion. I was pretty much done with WWII books and then this beauty of a novel came out. This tells the story of two women selected by Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune to become the recruits in the all-black WAC. This story is told with humor, and the uncomfortable but all-too-real truth of racism and sexism they faced in order to serve their country. There's so much to say about this book—it's heartwarming and confirms the power of women; I love it.

**The Final Revival of Opal and Nev** by Dawnie Walton

This is being compared heavily to "Daisy Jones and the Six". The documentary/reporter narrative style about a rock band is similar, but that's where it ends for me. This was really a story about the racial inequality of music in the sixties, feminism, and finding ways to belong. Where Daisy Jones felt like the interview of a real band, this read more like a well-written story. I have to say Walton's description of Opal had me picturing the legendary Grace Jones the entire book. My only complaint was the ending footnotes needed to be the end of the story and not the footnotes.

**The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

A fascinating look at the life of Belle de Costa Green, the personal librarian of J.P. Morgan. It was her mother's decision to pass off the children as white and this defining factor shaped Belle's life. Belle, living her life as a white woman, becomes one of the most famous - if unknown at the time-- black women of the literary world. My favorite passage from the book, "one day, Belle, we will be able to reach back through the decades and claim you as one of our own. Your accomplishments will be part of history..." Having visited the Morgan library, I am eager to go back armed with the new information about Belle. This is what I love most about historical fiction: bringing new things to light. I usually never read author's notes and was so glad I did in this instance as it showed the depth of research and friendship that helped bring this novel together.

**The Scandal** by Nicola Marsh

Completely engrossing, twisty mystery involving three friends, one dead pregnant woman, and a host of lying husbands. Loved the ending.

**Three Words for Goodbye** by Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb

I love when these two authors team up. In their latest novel two squabbling sisters come together to fulfill their grandmother's dying wish to visit Europe and deliver three letters - one in

Paris - *au revoir*- Venice -*arrivederci* - and Austria - *auf wiedersehen*. Set against a backdrop of pre-WW2 in 1937 and with the inspiration of their Aunt Nellie (Nellie Bly) these two sisters learn about themselves, their heritage, and their future. I loved it.

**While We Were Dating** by Jasmine Guillory

Jasmine Guillory is the gold standard in writing believable and lovable romance books/series. Her latest book in the Wedding Date series doesn't disappoint. I especially love the timeliness of the issues, coupled with the resolve, and a Happily Ever After that made me swoon. Beautiful.

**Seven Days in June** by Tia Williams

This book is heart wrenchingly beautiful. I love the characters, the drama, the angst, the pull and the push. The writing is pure poetry. I got to the last page and sighed. An exceptional novel - probably my book of the year.

## Selections: October 2021



### Cliequot Book Club

#### October 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>A Good Day for Chardonnay</b>	Darynda Jones	Sandra	Mystery
<b>Floating in a Most Peculiar Way</b>	Louis Chude-Sokei	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Her Perfect Life</b>	Hank Phillippi Ryan	Sandra	Mystery
<b>In Every Mirror She's Black</b>	Lolá Akinmádé Åkerström	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Island Affair</b>	Priscilla Oliveras	Sandra	Romance
<b>Picnic in Someday Valley</b>	Jodi Thomas	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Guilt Trip</b>	Sandie Jones	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Heart Principle</b>	Helen Huang	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Night She Disappeared</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Lisa Jewell	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Stranger in the Mirror</b>	Liv Constantine	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Turnout</b> <sup>RBC</sup>	Megan Abbott	Sandra	Mystery
<b>West With Giraffes</b>	Lynda Rutledge	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>Island Queen</b> <sup>GMA</sup>	Vanessa Riley	Sandra	Historical Fiction

NOTES:

**RBC:** Reese's Book Club

**GMA:** Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

#### **A Good Day for Chardonnay** by Darynda Jones

This book was so fun. Several different mysteries being solved with such fun banter. Sunshine's daughter was hilarious as she imitated being a crime fighting sleuth. I was laughing the whole way through, looking forward to the next in the series.

#### **Floating in a Most Peculiar Way** by Louis Chude-Sokei

Interesting story of a man trying to identify as he straddles three different countries. He tries to be an African, a Jamaican, and as a Black American.

#### **Her Perfect Life** by Hank Phillippi Ryan

This was twisty good: classic Hank Phillippi Ryan.

#### **In Every Mirror She's Black** by Lola Akinmade Åkerström

An extraordinary novel. A compelling story of three very different Black women, all living in Sweden. This book confronts racism, sexism, and classism head on. The ending though...? I loved it.

**Island Affair** by Priscilla Oliveras

Wonderful Romance. I loved the meet-cute and the Spanglish sprinkled in for flavor. Looking forward to the next in the series.

**Picnic in Someday Valley** by Jodi Thomas

I really enjoyed this second book in the "Honeycreek" series. New love and old problems come together to make a delightful story.

**The Guilt Trip** by Sandie Jones

A destination wedding in Portugal is fraught with suspicion when everyone is hiding secrets. Twisty mystery with a jaw-dropping ending is what you've come to expect from Jones. Her latest book doesn't disappoint. I was on the edge of my seat trying to figure out who was guilty. I loved it!

**The Heart Principle** by Helen Huang

This is Hoang's third in the series. Honest portrayal of a woman who never fits in finding her happily ever with a man who accepts her for who she is. The first person narrative was a little off-putting at first, but as I kept reading I felt as if I was inside Anna's mind: her anxiety, sadness, and joy leapt off the page.

**The Night She Disappeared** by Lisa Jewell

This mystery told from alternating time lines sneaks up on you. Jewell writes a compelling mystery that I couldn't put down. A young couple disappears, leaving a mother and baby wondering what happened. A seemingly unconnected story intertwines to make this a twisty good plot. I love the epilogue's final zing.

**The Stranger in the Mirror** by Liv Constantine

Jaw-dropping suspense that you've come to expect from Constantine. I loved the different POVs and their dramatic twisty ends.


**West with Giraffes** by Lynda Rutledge

A delightful read, I couldn't put it down. Told through the memory of an aging vet the story, taking place during the depression, is of a cross-country trek with a giraffe. I truly loved this book!

**Island Queen** by Vanessa Riley

A sweeping historical novel about the extraordinary life of Dorothy Kirwin Thomas. This is her remarkable life as an enslaved woman who buys her freedom and that of her family. She becomes one of the wealthiest ladies in the Caribbean. This gripping story depicts her triumphs and her heart-breaking hardships. I loved every minute of this book.

## Selections: November 2021



### Clicquot Book Club

#### November 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
A Lot Like Adiós	Alexis Daria	Sandra	Romance
Friends Like These <sup>GMA</sup>	Kimberly McCreight	Sandra	Mystery
L.A. Weather <sup>RBC</sup>	María Amparo Escandón	Sandra	Fiction
Sounds Like Titanic	Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman	Sandra	Nonfiction
The Clover Girls	Viola Shipman	Sandra	Fiction
The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina	Zoraida Córdova	Sandra	Magical Realism
The Last Chance Library <sup>GMA</sup>	Freya Sampson	Sandra	Fiction
The Seven Day Switch	Kelly Harms	Sandra	Fiction
The Sweetest Remedy	Jane Igharo	Sandra	Fiction
The Woman at the Front	Lecia Cornwall	Sandra	Historical Fiction
We Are the Brennans <sup>GMA</sup>	Tracey Lange	Sandra	Fiction
When Ghosts Come Home	Wiley Cash	Sandra	Mystery
We Are Not Like Them <sup>GMA</sup>	Christine Pride & Jo Piazza	Sandra	Fiction

**NOTES:**

*RBC:* Reese's Book Club

*GMA:* Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

### Friends like These by Kimberly McCreight

Twisty whodunnit with lots of perspectives.

### Sounds Like Titanic by Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman

Unbelievable and hilarious account of life on the road as a fake musician of a famous composer.

### The Clover Girls by Viola Shipman

Heartwarming story of friendship between four girls who met at summer camp. These women are reunited decades later after devastating treachery upended their lives. Now they must come



together to remember the past and forge ahead for a better future for themselves, and together as friends forever.

**The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina** by Zoraida Córdova

This is a story of light and dark, love and loss that is entwined in magical realism. This book reminds me of "100 Years of Solitude" and "Like Water for Chocolate" with its generational pull of mysticism and magic. Orquídea's progeny are summoned back home to receive their inheritance. What they find is a surprise and the gifts they receive follow them to right the wrongs of the past and celebrate Orquídea's legacy. I loved it!

**The Last Chance Library** by Freya Sampson

Charming story of an introverted para-librarian trying to save her small town library. This book is a lovely reminder of why libraries are so important and the backbone of the community.

**The Seven Day Switch** by Kelly Harms

Fun "Freaky Friday", "Parent trap", "Wife-swap" mashup of a book. Two suburban moms who think the grass is greener wake up in each other's bodies after drinking sangria with artisanal infused vodka. Often hilarious, and at other times a sad commentary on the state of how women treat each other.

**The Sweetest Remedy** by Jane Igharo

Wonderful novel on identity and love in the time of loss. Hannah travels to Nigeria for the funeral of a father she never knew and meets a family who is unprepared for her existence. This story is all about what it means to be a family and how we identify ourselves. I loved it.

**The Woman at the Front** Lecia Cornwall

Compelling WWI saga of a young woman's fight to practice medicine as a doctor. Not until she is sent to war-torn France as a glorified nursemaid to an entitled aristocrat does she come into her own. Eleanor grows into herself as she sheds her naivety, becomes Doctor Atherton and gains respect along the way.

**We are Not Like Them** by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

A powerful novel about best friends, one Black and one white whose lives are permanently changed by the killing of a Black teen. The prose is so compelling as it is told in the alternating points of Jen and Riley. The reader bears witness to their friendship and their pain as race becomes a factor of their friendship like never before. An extraordinary read, perfect for today's climate.

**Selections: December 2021**



## Clacquot Book Club

### December 2021 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
<b>Black Girls Must Die Exhausted</b>	Jayne Allen	Sandra	Fiction
<b>Hell of a Book</b> <sup>RWJ, NBA</sup>	Jason Mott	Sandra	Fiction
<b>I Left My Homework in the Hamptons</b>	Blythe Grossberg	Sandra	Nonfiction
<b>Sankofa</b> <sup>RBC</sup>	Chibundu Onuzo	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Christmas Wedding Guest</b>	Susan Mallery	Sandra	Romance
<b>The Lincoln Highway</b> <sup>RWJ</sup>	Amor Towles	Sandra	Historical Fiction
<b>The Man Who Died Twice</b>	Richard Osman	Sandra	Mystery
<b>The Matzah Ball</b>	Jean Meltzer	Sandra	Romance
<b>The People We Keep</b>	Allison Larkin	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Stranger in the Lifeboat</b>	Mitch Albom	Sandra	Fiction
<b>The Secret of Snow</b>	Viola Shipman	Sandra	Fiction

NOTES:

**RBC:** Reese's Book Club

**RWJ:** Read With Jenna

**NBA:** National Book Award

### **Black Girls Must Die Exhausted** by Jayne Allen

The title of this book really nails the essence of this story. A professional Black woman, coping with family, health, friends, men, and work— all at the same time. Well told story of the many hats black women juggle on a daily basis.

### **Sankofa** by Chibundu Onuzo

Quiet, introspective novel about a bi-racial middle aged woman who goes searching for the father she never knew in Africa. Her journey to find out about her father and her identity leads her down a path of self-discovery. Great story, hated the ending. A more literary version of "The Sweetest Remedy".

### **The Christmas Wedding Guest** by Susan Mallery

I love that this is the start of a new series; a perfect Christmastime romance.

### **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles

A young man and his brother go on a wild adventure from Nebraska to New York using the Lincoln highway as a backdrop. At times it felt like the riddle "on my way to Saint Ives". There

was a lot going on. The writing is beautiful, but this book could have been condensed. 572 pages is just too long: I was ready for the adventure to end.

**The Man Who Died Twice** by Richard Osman

Delightful whodunnit with mad-cap septuagenarians. It had a fun mystery to solve with dead bodies and missing diamonds. I laughed so much—loved it!

**The Matzah Ball** by Jean Meltzer

Charming Hanukkah romance. This book put a smile on my face.

**The People We Keep** by Allison Larkin

Charming coming of age story. April has had it hard, from a mother who left to a father who doesn't care. She makes her way in the world with her guitar and the people she meets along the way. The story comes full circle as she realizes in leaving over and over, she was never really alone.

**The Stranger in the Lifeboat** by Mitch Albom

A beautiful story about survivors on a lifeboat after a cruise ship explodes. Adrift at sea they encounter another man in the water who claims to be the Lord. Told through the perspective of one of the lifeboat survivors and the chief inspector on the island who finds the tattered lifeboat a year later. Profound and introspective, this book touches on themes of love, loss, and the meaning of life.

**The Secret of Snow** by Viola Shipman

A wonderful feel-good story about redemption, second chances and finding the magic of Christmas.